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Copy of handwritten note to The Honorable George W. Ball

October 19, 1962

Dear George:

In connection with Cuba, it might be interesting to have a study made of the total amount of private American capital invested there, versus repatriation of capital and profits, for a period say from 1920 to date. I imagine that most of the pertinent data exists in Dept. of Commerce files.

The reason I suggest this is because of constant Cuban propaganda as to "exploitation" by US private interests. I hazard the guess that, on balance, during this period of 40 years, the "exploitation" was not profitable. If it was, we can forget the matter. Sugar company after company, with heavy US investment, went into reorganizations, receivership or bankruptcy. I doubt whether there was much repatriation of profits on hotels, and other real estate ventures. I suppose Am. & For. Power, as regards the sale of electric power, made large remittances. Anyhow, if such a study has not been done, this may be worth looking into.

The wind is fair to float the UK into the C.M. There are, of course, remaining obstacles. I talked yesterday to Bob Schmetzel about them, but none seem insurmountable. He will report to you regarding them. On our side, I believe our chief contribution might be what use, if any, can be made of the Trade Expansion Act powers to be of assistance in the negotiations. It is possible, even probable, that any proposal, for example, to proceed to a beginning on international commodity agreements would be confusing, rather than constructive, for some time to come. This, however, deserves consideration. EFTA questions have been dormant, but, I fear, may become, later on, divisive, though I doubt that ERM will let any agreement founder on that rock.

With kind regards,

Ever yours,

David

The Honorable

George W. Ball

The Department of State

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TRANSCRIBED PAGE FOLLOWS

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